

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Lovell, Deane, Cox, Tucker, Charman, District Cllr Williams and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). One member of the public attended the meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** County Cllr Fatemian

<b>24/028</b>	<b>Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and RFO:</b> Cllr Sandi Turner was elected Chairman. Cllr Rodney Hobbs was elected Vice Chairman. Mr David Best was elected Responsible Financial Officer.
<b>24/029</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None
<b>24/030</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).
<b>24/031</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes:</b> None.
<b>24/032</b> 24/032/1  24/032/2	<b>Public Participation:</b> <b>Grass in West Close</b> – A member of the public attending the meeting asked if the grass in West Close could be kept shorter. It was agreed that the clerk would ask Thomas Fox Landscape Services if they can make a shorter cut or whether it would require more frequent mowing. West Close is currently mowed every 2 weeks with 12 cuts during the season. It was agreed that the triangle at the bottom of West Close will be mown in June. <b>Verges along Murreys Lane</b> – The member of the public also asked if the verges along Murreys Lane could be kept mown. The clerk will ask Thomas Fox to mow them with the other verges. The verges are mown once a month from June onwards when the daffodils have died back with 7 cuts in the season.
<b>24/033</b> 24/033/1  24/033/2  24/033/3  24/033/4	<b>Clerk's Report:</b> <b>Allotments</b> – Allotment 19 which has recently been vacated has been taken over by a parishioner. The rent letters have been printed and will shortly be posted. The allotment water was switched on by Cllr Chris Charman and he repaired a broken tap. <b>Work on the bridge</b> – OCC Highways has confirmed that the repairs should commence in July after a bat survey has been carried out. The road will be closed to cars for 8 weeks but pedestrian access will be maintained. <b>Flood prevention at the bridge</b> – A form has been submitted to OCC to request that work is carried out to reduce flooding of the road at the bridge by installing additional culverts and clearing out the existing ones. The clerk has also contacted the Environment Agency to request permission to dredge the river Swere at the bridge. <b>Use of Glyphosate to keep footpaths clear</b> – Two residents had asked the parish council not to use Glyphosate to keep the footpaths clear. The clerk has been advised by Thomas Fox Landscaping that the alternatives aren't effective and are not worth using. It was agreed that Glyphosate will be continued to be used. The paths are usually only sprayed once a year.
<b>24/034</b> 24/034/1  24/034/2	<b>Correspondence:</b> <b>Dogs out of control in field behind Broad Close</b> – There is a footpath that runs from the churchyard along the back of Broad Close. Dogs have been let off leads to run around the field and have been observed chasing sheep. Residents are reminded that dogs should be kept on leads and kept on the footpath. It was agreed that the Parish Council would put up notices on this footpath reminding dog walkers to keep their dogs on the path. <b>Climate and Nature Bill</b> – A resident has asked the Parish Council to sign an open letter to ask local parliamentary candidates to commit to the bill. The Parish Council decided to stay neutral on the issue and let individuals sign the open letter if they felt it appropriate.
<b>24/035</b>	<b>County Councillor's Report from Arash Fatemian:</b> None
<b>24/036</b>	<b>District Councillor's Report from Bryn Williams:</b> None

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<p><b>24/037</b> 24/037/1</p> <p>24/037/2</p>	<p><b>Parish Matters:</b>  <b>Car park in Barford St Michael</b> – Several residents had requested if the Parish Council could provide a car park in the village. A landowner in the village has been asked if they would be prepared to sell some land. This will be considered by all members of the family when they meet in June.  <b>Waste Bin replacement</b> – A round bin design has been chosen in green and it was agreed that the clerk would order 3 replacement bins.</p>
<p><b>24/038</b> 24/038/1 24/038/2</p>	<p><b>Planning:</b>  <b>24/00118/CLUE</b> – 9 Bishops Close –Garage conversion – CDC refused 8/03/2024.  <b>24/00347/LB</b> – Barford Bridge – Repairs and strengthening – CDC permitted 9/4/2024.</p>
<p><b>24/039</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Meetings:</b> None.</p>
<p><b>24/040</b> 24/040/1</p> <p>24/040/2</p> <p>24/040/3 24/040/4</p>	<p><b>Finance:</b>  <b>Payments</b> – The clerk gained approval for payments totalling £581.20. The first half of the precept of £5,400 has been received from CDC. The reserves are currently £14,938.  <b>Auditing of the accounts to the year ended 31/03/2024</b> – The accounts have been given to Mr Jeremy Eastwood to carry out the internal audit.  <b>Certificate of Exemption</b> – It was agreed to sign the certificate of exemption from external audit.  <b>Inspection of the accounts</b> – A resident had asked at the Annual Parish Meeting if the accounts could be made available for inspection. It was agreed that anyone who wishes to inspect the accounts should contact the clerk by emailing <a href="mailto:davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com">davidbest.barfordspc@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>24/041</b> 24/041/1</p> <p>24/041/2</p>	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b>  <b>20mph speed limit on South Newington Road</b> – It was agreed that the clerk would write to OCC Highways again requesting a 20mph speed limit along South Newington Road and clarification on the status of the road which is classified as a Restricted Byway (a highway over which the public is entitled to travel on foot, horseback or and with non-mechanically propelled vehicles).  <b>Department for Transport road safety report at 10 airbases including Barford St John</b> – It was agreed that the clerk would write to OCC Highways enquiring on their plans to improve road safety following the report. The DfT had advised the PC last year that it had referred the matter to OCC as “it did not make any recommendations that would require immediate emergency engineering interventions due to risks uncovered” and “there is minimal risk to those using the road”.</p>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....